A Special Message to Our Non-Member Colleagues:

We’ve been waiting for you. It’s Time to Enrich the Next Chapter of Your Life.

Imagine your world filled with…..
- stimulating lectures
- adventurous trips
- tours of magnificent gardens
- regular book club meetings with amazing friends
- an annual arts and crafts show, featuring more than 20 talented artists and craftspersons (see article to the right)
- Hollywood Bowl Night and Association Holiday Party
- special interest groups from hiking and biking to bridge and Scrabble
- regional chapters now forming to bring UCLARA closer to you
- kissing-cousin relations with UCLA’s Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center and the UCLA Emeriti Association
- And a wide range of volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community

Intrigued? We hope so. Find out what more than 1,000 of your former colleagues already know -- The UCLA Retirees’ Association is here for you.

We are sending you this complimentary copy of our latest newsletter as a way to introduce ourselves to you.

In this issue you will find articles dealing with events you’ve been missing, from faculty lectures to Hollywood Bowl concerts and garden tours, play reading, and so much more. And you’ll get the latest information on who has recently retired—friends and colleagues like yourself who are also receiving this open invitation to join us.

Please tour our website at www.retirees.ucla.edu to check out what’s going on. You can join by clicking the yellow “Join” button at the top of the page, or access our Application Form at www.retirees.ucla.edu/Membership-Application.

Discover the many other benefits of membership: Some of the benefits we have helped achieve over the years include: retiree special annual permit parking rates; Bruin email access; BruinCard benefits; UCLA Extension discounts; OSHER special membership and Belmont Village retirement living arrangements.

Continued on Page 2

Art Show Wows Visitors

The Faculty Center’s California Room was the place to be on Thursday, November 5, when UCLARA held its 11th annual Arts & Crafts Exhibit.

Some 25 talented exhibitors, nine of whom were first-time participants, showed their impressive works ranging from paintings and mosaics to jewelry and ceramics.

One first-time exhibitor, Mel Widawski, surprised visitors when he said, “I just started painting in January!” His work, mainly oil pastels, ranged from outdoor scenes to lifelike portraits. “I enjoy showing my paintings and seeing people’s reactions,” he said. His wife, Barbara, a more experienced artist, was also exhibiting her paintings.

“Next year, we hope many of these talented people will return, and we also hope to present additional media,” said Nancy Varat, in her first year as chair of the exhibit.

Visitors to the show included a mix of retirees and emeriti plus current staff and faculty, and UCLARA members. There was a sizeable contingent from the Belmont Village Retirement Home, all of whom had big smiles on their faces.

“I think it’s great to see people getting back into art after their retirement,” said visitor Maggie McGinley, a retiree from the Department of Pathology. “I really appreciate their efforts, and I love seeing old friends here too.”
A Strong Voice Protecting Your Benefits: We also provide an important voice for retired staff to University leadership and government officials. And we band together with our sister Retiree Associations on statewide initiatives. Through our advocacy programs, we continue to represent your interests, views and concerns.

Oh yes, there’s more: Please mark your calendar for the afternoon of January 21, 2016, for our special reception for prospective members at the James West Alumni Center. You will be receiving an invitation soon. Come and meet the Board, hear about exciting programs being planned for 2016, and mix with friends as we set out a tasty refreshment table.

Here’s the deal: Our annual membership fee is just $25 per year, and $10 more for your spouse or partner. Our active Board of Directors has worked diligently to keep costs down; the dues collected defray our cost of operation.

The UCLA Retirees’ Association has been serving members since 1982—so we have a long, successful track record of keeping members connected to the people, the programs, the University and the broader Southern California community.

We welcome your membership. Consider UCLARA your value-added gift to yourself.

Chancellor Fetes New Retirees

It was a feel-good event for all concerned. On the afternoon of October 12, under a festive tent canopy on the lawn of the Chancellor’s Residence on campus, some 150 recent UCLA retirees and emeriti joined Chancellor Gene Block and his wife, Carol, for a reception. Designed to honor the service and achievements of staff and faculty retirees, the event was an opportunity to meet the Chancellor and engage with former co-workers in a casual setting.

“UCLA is thriving,” the Chancellor said, “and that is thanks in large part to the dedication of our excellent staff and faculty.” He pointed out that some attendees had a University career of 50 years or more, which he deemed “extraordinary.”

He praised events like this one as valuable because they give him the chance, as host, to congratulate and honor recent retirees. To those who live a distance from the University, he said, “It’s great to get you back on campus.”

Other speakers celebrating the retirees included Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel Carole Goldberg, Emeriti Association President Betty Chang, Retirees’ Association President Rod Rose, and Ragini Gill, director of the Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center.

In closing, the Chancellor urged everyone to stay engaged with the University and, citing an upcoming football game, ended with an enthusiastic “Go Bruins!”

Economically Speaking...

On October 8, UCLA Senior Economist Jerry Nickelsburg spoke before a joint gathering of members of the UCLA Emeriti and Retiree Associations in the Faculty Center.

Noting that the U.S. has experienced six years of expansion accompanied by modest growth, Dr. Nickelsburg does not anticipate a recession, described as an adjustment process, at least through 2017. He observed that the current expansion has been uneven across the country with some states such as California and Florida doing much better than others. He forecasts that California will reach full employment in 2016, outpacing the rest of the country. The Baby Boomers are retiring in large numbers, replacing a smaller retirement cohort, the Silent Generation. The younger generations should have more employment opportunities as these retirements take place.

In the final analysis, Dr. Nickelsburg delivered a fairly optimistic report on the U.S. and California economies, accompanied by the usual cautionary advice that things can change and are dependent on many factors not necessarily under our control. It is certain that the audience enjoyed the opportunity to be updated on economic trends.

Daniel J. Bennett
Assistant Dean Emeritus
A Little Bit of Cuba

A group of some 35 UCLARA members danced in their seats as they enjoyed a lively performance by Cuban musical group Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club at the Hollywood Bowl in August.

The group, which became a musical sensation in 1997, was on its Adios Tour, so a good portion of nostalgia was infused in the music. The ensemble, featuring both young and older musicians and singers, delighted the audience with an Afro-Cuban mix of jazz, mambo, charanga, salsa and swing.

Also on the bill was famed flamenco singer Diego El Cigala. Called the Sinatra of flamenco for his beautiful voice, he melded the rhythms and melodies of his Spanish gypsy heritage, with styles ranging from bolero to Caribbean jazz.

It was a lovely way to spend a summer evening in the good company of UCLA friends and colleagues.

Visit a Garden with Us

On a beautiful Fall morning in October, 21 UCLARA members gathered to visit the Virginia Robinson Gardens in Beverly Hills. The gardens, on a 6-acre site, feature a magnificent palm dell, rose garden, vegetable garden, and many intimate spaces to rest and enjoy the grand views. The estate was the first to be built in Beverly Hills and we were treated to a peek into an earlier, grander and more gracious time.

Upcoming Garden Events

November 18, 2015: A docent-led tour of the Japanese Garden and the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. In the midst of the busy San Fernando Valley lies an oasis—a 6½ acre Japanese Garden. This is three gardens in one: a dry Zen meditation garden, a wet-strolling garden with waterfalls, lakes and streams, and a tea house and tea garden. Situated next to the water reclamation plant, it demonstrates a positive use of reclaimed water. The plant combines advanced wastewater treatment technology with the beauty and tranquility of its landscaped gardens.

December 17, 2015: The Malibu Lagoon. Senior Watershed Advisor Mark Abramson, from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, will talk with us about the restoration of the Malibu Lagoon, where Malibu Creek meets the Pacific Ocean. On the east side of Malibu Creek Bridge is the famous Malibu Pier, and on the west side visitors will find picnic tables and a nature area excellent for bird watching and the study of a unique eco-system, a Southern California saltwater marsh.

Save the Date!

Look what we are planning for your enjoyment with your UCLA family in the coming months! There’s something for everyone. Mark your calendars, and feel free to share your thoughts and ideas about other types of events that we might plan.

Holiday Party:
Join us on December 9, 2015, for our annual Holiday Party! We’re returning to the Proud Bird, which everyone loved last year. You’re sure to enjoy visiting with old friends, meeting new ones, and joining in the holiday spirit with games, a raffle and a delicious buffet lunch. Watch your email for a flyer soon. (If you’re a good shutterbug and would like to be a photographer for this event, contact Judith Tuch at judithtuch@sbcglobal.net.)

In the Works for 2016:
We’re working on several exciting events for the New Year.
February: Tour of the renovated Wilshire Boulevard Temple and the Greek Orthodox Church, two iconic places of worship in L.A.
April: A visit to the Sam Maloof Foundation house, the home and gardens of the famous furniture designer and woodworker
May: Tour of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena

We hope to see you at these events!

UCLARA Cancellation Policy: If a cancellation is necessary, a full refund will be given if the cancellation is requested before the Event Registration Deadline. For later cancellations, a refund will be made only if a person on the waiting list can attend.
Waiting to Get Bored

My friends still working at ASUCLA often ask me, “What is retirement like?” Even though I always enjoyed working (both before and after my career at UCLA) and have met many wonderful people in 35-plus years in Finance who are still my friends, I always answer with a smile I cannot suppress, “FANTASTIC!”

Life circumstances gently nudged me into retirement; first, I lost my husband and best friend in 2007; then changes in my work environment made me think it was time to start doing the things on my wish list instead of just saying “Someday…” Friends told me I would be bored and have difficulty adjusting to all that “free” time after years of living by a rigorous work schedule, but since I retired in 2011, I haven’t looked back.

In fact, after four years, I’m still waiting to be bored, and finding the time to do everything on my wish list remains a problem. What have I done? Of course, I’ve spent time with family members. We’ve taken cruises to Alaska and the British Isles, which proved to be great bonding experiences with my daughters and grandchildren. I also reconnected with cousins I had not seen in a gazillion years—it was as if there had been no time gap between us. I’ve coached reading groups at my younger granddaughters’ school and joined two reading groups myself. I’ve always loved painting and have been taking art classes at LACMA, including oils, watercolors, figure drawing, drawing in the gallery, and portraiture; I’ve even exhibited my art work in the Retiree’s Association Arts & Crafts Show. Four years ago I joined a weekly Mah Jongg group and now have four friends I will cherish forever.

I’m a gardener too, so I recently went to London with a friend to see the Chelsea Flower Show. That is one trip I will never forget. The gardens in London are amazing! My own front yard has shrubs and flowers that require little water, and everything blooms at different times so I always have color on display—not California natives, just beautiful flowering shrubs, bulbs, and a few roses. The daylilies, Asian lilies, and cannas are frequent watercolor subjects for me. I felt honored in May 2013, when Barbara Wold, who chairs the Garden Club, made my garden one of the stops on her tour.

I love to go to movies and lunches during the week, and I still have things on my “to do” list that I have not accomplished—like a chest full of craft projects waiting to be started. Did I mention I was UCLARA Program Chair for two years and just became the Volunteer Chair in July?

You know, I’m still waiting to get bored!

Judy Dattels
Volunteer Chair

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Renewal notices were sent via email over the past few months. If you haven’t sent yours in, now is the time! This is the last Newsletter you will receive if you don’t renew, and you certainly won’t want to miss out on exciting events like the Holiday Party at the Proud Bird, and all the other special events we have planned— not to mention keeping up with your colleagues and friends and staying connected to the University we love.

Annual dues are only $25 for a member and $10 for a spouse/partner. So act now! Go to www.retirees.ucla.edu. You can join by clicking the yellow “Join” button at the top of the page, or find our Application Form at www.retirees.ucla.edu/Membership-Application.

News from the ERRC

First Fridays
Meet with a Bruin Tech every other month for your technology needs. The next First Friday will be held at YRL Research Commons on Friday, December 4, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Wellness
Mark your calendar: Nov 20th for a talk on holiday nutrition at Belmont Village. Watch your email for details.

Personal Information
As the official office of record, it’s important to keep your address, phone number and email address up-to-date with the Center. Please call or email if your information has changed: 310-825-7456 or emeriti@errc.ucla.edu.
A Special Welcome to New UCLA Retirees

Clare Bowen
Denise Dale
Dieula Dunn
E. V. (Que) Gatlin
Fereydoon Ghaffari
Teresa Gonzalez
Randi Greenberg
Becky Henricksen
Parin Jaffer
Peter Kvaric
Li-Li Lin
Deborah Mincey
Aune Moro
Roxanne Moster
Noreen Norris
Jack Powazek
Jacqueline Reynolds
John Reynolds
Mary Jo Robertson
Levoria Rogers
Terry Saunders
Suzanne Schweitzer
Ingrid Scott
Michael Selch
Debra Shade
Mohinder Sidhu
Elizabeth Simonds
Marcella Tong
Nancy Wainwright
Sheila Wallace
Betty Yee

Article Deadline

January 15 is the deadline for submitting articles for the Winter 2016 Newsletter.

News and Notes

Open Enrollment: There are no major medical plan changes for 2016, although there will be some benefit enhancements and some premiums will be increasing. Retiree learning sessions are taking place now to help you learn about retiree plans and how they work with Medicare. There’s still time to attend the session on Monday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to noon in Westwood. Call 310-825-7456 or email emeriti@errc.ucla.edu.

Library Privileges: You may already know that UCLA retirees are entitled to the same library privileges as current staff members. But did you know that UCLA now provides full reciprocal library borrowing privileges to all UC retirees from any campus, equivalent to what they received while employed? A UC Annuity Card (BruinCard for UCLA retirees) and photo ID are all that’s needed.

Interest Group Contacts

Interest groups are open to all UCLA Retirees. If you would like to participate in one, please call or email the contact listed below:

Carli Rogers, 310-397-4901, cvrogers_99@yahoo.com
Intermediate Scrabble, 1st Thursdays, 1:15 p.m., on campus

Liz Taylor, 310-836-1073, mtayloru@ucla.edu or
Sheena Ricchio, 310-709-4489, sheenarr@aol.com
Hiking, scheduled as weather permits*

Barbara Wold, 310-476-1318, bbwold@roadrunner.com
Garden Group, Thursday mornings

Pat Lotker, 805-492-8087, pathl@verizon.net
Valley Intermediate Mah-Jongg, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., Westfield Promenade Mall

Mary Petersen, 310-459-3646, mary.petersen@anderson.ucla.edu
Intermediate Bridge, 3rd Thursdays, 11:45 a.m., on campus

*All UCLA Retirees will receive an email invitation in advance of the event.

For those UCLA Retirees who live a distance from campus and may be interested in participating in one of the Regional Chapters, please contact:

For the Ventura Regional Chapter:
Pat Lotker, 805-492-8087, pathl@verizon.net

For the Palm Springs Chapter:
Sue Townley, 310-780-3408, sue.townsley@gmail.com

A Note about Book Clubs

The UCLA Retirees’ Association has several book clubs in various geographical areas, but none of them is accepting new members at present. Why not start another? If you would be interested in coordinating or joining a new UCLA Retirees book club, please contact Carli Rogers, 310-397-4901 or cvrogers_99@yahoo.com.
Recent Retirees

Do you know any of these recent retirees? Please reach out and tell them about the diverse array of programs and activities UCLA sponsors, the many opportunities to get involved and stay connected to UCLA and, best of all, the chance to start new friendships and strengthen those enjoyed with former colleagues.

Most importantly, the Association constantly works as an advocate on behalf of retirees to protect benefits and to make the needs, concerns and interests of retirees known to University leaders. And the yearly dues are easy on the pocket: just $25 for members; $10 for spouse/partners. To join, visit retirees.ucla.edu or call 310-825-7456. So spread the word….and thanks!

Fe Bandril
Helen Bengtson
Anita Bose
Naomi Clayton
Marcelo Couto
Zsuzsanna Denes
John Demerd
Imelda Diaz
Sharon Enright
Judith Gasson
Robert Glass
Tamela Gould-Porter
Deborah Gutheinz
Lydia Heyman
Beth Jamieson-Karavodin
Star Janpen
Susan Kenninger
Renate Kowal
Rand La Belle
Amy Luder

Paula MacRae
Deborah Mincey
Wendy Pitts
Jack Powazek
Rose Lou Saldana
Barbara Silber
Virgolina Silva
Carl Stevens
David Stout
Barbaran Tkaczyk
Jane Tokunow
Barbara Tone
David Tyndall
Susan Vinograd
David Wah
Meiying Wang
Frida Xhonga-Oja
Hong Yang
Li Zhu

Words to New Retirees

I’m a relatively new retiree (just about a year), but I’ve already learned a few lessons to share with this year’s group.

Things I was wrong about…

1-That I might spend weeks in pajamas. Won’t happen—In fact, that very fear will probably cause you to overcommit. I’m spending a couple of hours every week welcoming visitors at The Huntington, and am taking Osher and PLATO classes, going to the gym regularly, and working my way through 50 years of collected recipes. My patient and usually appreciative husband puts up with the exotica for a week or so, then says firmly, “Meatloaf tonight.” By the way, why did I ever think I would be making my own chorizo or that I would actually want to try five different crab cake recipes?

2- That I’d finally clear out the boxes that I’ve been promising to “get rid of as soon as I have time.” I have a bit of an excuse—my former colleagues at the History-Geography Project have asked me to continue with a few projects so I can legitimately say, “I might need this.” There’s only one solution—cut the cord completely, which I plan to do as soon as I’ve finished with my current commitments.

3-That I’d be saving money because I wouldn’t need work clothes. In fact, I now have enough time to get to the sales that used to be over before I finally saw the ad in the newspaper. And how can you walk past an item that is not only on sale but is an additional 20% off “Today Only”?

4-That I’d still be in the loop. Colleagues will want to keep up with you, and you’ll want to be in touch with them, but you don’t realize how much information gets passed in the hallway. Just plan the occasional lunch and be a good listener if frustrations pour out—after all, you would have loved to be able to share with a knowledgeable outsider.

Things I was right about…

1-That I’d have to be more careful about my weight. Snacks are only a room away instead of a building away so it’s tempting to grab a bite more often. And remember, you won’t be running around campus like you used to.

2-That I’d be more civically engaged. I always kept up with the news, never missed a vote, and sent donations to causes I support, but I’m now writing letters to newspapers and public officials (not that they necessarily want to hear from me), and attending neighborhood meetings.

Finally, I was right about feeling that I made the right decision a year ago—I did, and I hope you are feeling you did too.

Mary Miller
UCLARA Member
In Memoriam

UCOP has reported the death of the following UCLA annuitants. We are grateful for their service and extend condolences to their families.

Adler, Samuel
Agcaoili, Melinda
Balady, Zezif
Bayer, Judith
Blonsky, Beatrice
Brandes, Janet
Cenance, Mervin
Chapman, Kenneth
Corletto, Juan
Damelio, Mary
Danila, Birgit
Davison, Sophie
Ellis, Judith
Engstrom, Jon
Goodrick, Margaret
Huhn, William
Johnson, John
Lacey, Cheryl
Levy, Molly
Lund, Robert
Mays, Eloise
Novick, Linda
Olsen, Georgina
Ramirez, Joe
Rich, Sigmund
Rogers, Jerald
Schoenberg, Jane
Scott, Charles
Selig, Marie
Seltzer, Frances
Shah, Bhavik
Sokolove, Mollie
Tai, Bernard
Thomas, Velma
Watkins, Rickie
Watson, Margaret
Weiner, Vera
Weiss, Mildred
Wellin-Whistler, Renee
Whitlock, Von
Wilson, B J
Xhonga-Oja, Frida

The Play’s the Thing

Photo by Carol Betti

Come join Don Juan, the other good people in hell, and the UCLA Faculty Women’s Club Play Readers, on Thursday, November 12th, when we will read Act III, the “Don Juan in Hell” sequence, from George Bernard Shaw’s Man and Superman.

Our performance starts at 7 p.m. in the UCLA Faculty Center Billiard/Library Room and all are welcome to attend free, and to join us beforehand for dinner. No tickets or advance notice are necessary. We invite you to participate, too. “ Pretending to be someone else, even for a very short time, is a release from everyday cares and woes,” explains Mary Lou Ward, who enjoys reading with the group.

In 2016 we will be presenting a variety of theatrical works with many different roles, ranging from Lysistrata in January, to Vaclav Havel’s Vanek Trilogy in February, The Three Sisters by Chekhov in March, Edmond Rostand’s The Romancers in April, and several short plays by Christopher Durang in May.

Look, too, for an upcoming notice about the special outing we are planning for December, possibly to the Los Angeles Theater Works production of Jane Eyre, on December 10th on campus. Please email Marjorie Friedlander friedlander.marjorie@gmail.com for more information.

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PUBLICATIONS BLOCK

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